

MAR 10 2015

S.R. NO. 31

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS
REGARDING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS AND DANGERS CAUSED BY THE USE
OF MICROBEADS IN PERSONAL-CARE PRODUCTS.

1 WHEREAS, microbeads are tiny plastic particles found in
2 hundreds of personal-care products, including facial wash,
3 exfoliating scrubs, toothpaste, and shower gel; and
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5 WHEREAS, microbeads are non-biodegradable and pass through
6 wastewater treatment plant filters and easily flow into our
7 oceans, lakes, and rivers; and
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9 WHEREAS, one bottle of facial cleanser may contain 350,000
10 microbeads, and American consumers buy personal-care products
11 containing more than 573,000 pounds of microbeads each year; and
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13 WHEREAS, microbeads absorb toxic substances from the
14 environment and are consumed by fish and other marine animals
15 because the microbeads can resemble marine food substances; and
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17 WHEREAS, humans subsequently consume fish and other marine
18 life that contain toxic microbeads; and
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20 WHEREAS, there are alternative natural, food-based
21 exfoliants that are as effective as microbeads, such as ground
22 almond shells, sugar, salt, oatmeal, and fruit pits; and
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24 WHEREAS, several large companies have already stopped using
25 microbeads or are phasing out the use of microbeads due to their
26 adverse effects on the environment and public health; and
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28 WHEREAS, Illinois recently passed legislation to phase out
29 the sale and manufacture of personal-care products that contain
30 microbeads; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
34 that this body urges the Department of Health to raise public



1 awareness regarding the adverse effects and dangers caused by
2 the use of microbeads in personal-care products; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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